

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01 OES-02 PRS-01 /042 W

----- 107123

R 111156Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7078

USDOC WASHDC

USTREASURY WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1870

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD UR US

SUBJECT: US-USSR JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING, APRIL 75

1. DURING RECENT MOSCOW MEETING WITH SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER V.S. ALKHIMOV ATTENDED BY HAROLD SCOTT AND JOHN CONNOR OF US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND ALSO BY EMBOFFS, CONNOR RAISED QUESTION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR OPERATIONS OF US FIRMS' REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN MOSCOW, OF EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICE, AND OF SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON AND KAMA COMMISSION IN NEW YORK. CONNOR'S ARGUMENT THAT NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT LEAVES THESE OFFICES IN LIMBO AND NEW BILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON COMPANY OFFICES NOW NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR THEIR OPERATION. ALKHIMOV RESPONSE, TACITLY CONCURRED IN BY OTHER SOVIETS PRESENT, WAS THAT SOVIETS HAVE NO INTENTION OF QUESTIONING STATUS OF US COMPANY OFFICES IN MOSCOW OR COMMERCIAL OFFICE AND SEE NO REASON TO RAISE ISSUE UNLESS USG DOES SO.

2. TO CONNOR'S CONTINUED PRESSING ALKHIMOV REPLIED THAT IF BOTH US AND SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING SET FOR APRIL 1975 IN MOSCOW DEEM DESIRABLE SOME FURTHER BUTTRESSING OF LEGAL BASIS FOR BUSINESS OFFICES,
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POSSIBLY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON SUBJECT BETWEEN

CHIEFS OF TWO DELEGATIONS MIGHT BE ARRANGED. ALKHIMOV MADE CLEAR THAT HE SEES NO NEED FOR SUCH LETTERS AND THAT SOVIETS WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE ISSUE DORMANT.

3. COMMENT: EMBOFFS TOOK NO PART IN EXCHANGE AND NOTED INITIATIVE APPEARED TO ORIGINATE WITH CONNOR, AS SCOTT NEITHER SUPPORTED NOR EXPANDED UPON CONNOR'S REMARKS. EMBASSY BELIEVES SOVIETS WOULD IN ANY CASE AGREE ARTICLE IV OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIGNED JUNE 29, 1975, WOULD SATISFY ANY NEED FOR AUTHORIZATION OF OFFICES IN QUESTION.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, JOINT VENTURES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW01870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750049-0500
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750254/aaaabwge.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING, APRIL 75
TAGS: ETRD, UR, US
To: STATE TRSY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006